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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/902,174 | 07/10/2001 | Inga Laursen | 0459-0636P | 8992 |
| 2292 | 7590 | 09/13/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747 | | | SAUNDERS, DAVID A | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1644 | |

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|

09/902,174 10/7/01

LAURSEN

EXAMINER

D. SAUNDERS

ART UNIT

PAPER

1647 20060905

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

See attached page

Applicant's information disclosure statement of 5/9/06 was filed after the issue fee was paid. Information disclosure statements filed after payment of the issue fee will not be considered, but will be placed in the file. (The examiner finds no good reason for the late filing of the disclosure statement. The two references listed were not considered during prosecution of parent application 09/328,497, now Pat. 6,281,336; thus applicant's failure to earlier submit these references was not merely an oversight in listing references of record in the parent application.) However, the application may be withdrawn from issue in order to file a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 upon the grant of a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2), or a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b) (or a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) if the CPA is for a design patent and the prior application of the CPA is a design application) upon the grant of a petition filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.313(c)(3). Alternatively, the other provisions of 37 CFR 1.313 may apply, e.g., a petition to withdraw the application from issue under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) may be filed together with an unequivocal statement by the applicant that one or more claims are unpatentable over the information contained in the statement. The information disclosure statement would then be considered upon withdrawal of the application from issue under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A. Saunders, PhD whose telephone number is 571-272-0849. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thu. from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan, can be reached on 571-272-0841. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Typed 9/5/06 DAS

David A. Saunders
DAVID SAUNDERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1644